



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA TO USE STATE GRANTS TO BOOST SMALL BUSINESS ROLE IN FEDERAL R&D

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that it is now accepting applications for grants totaling \$1 million to targeted states and other localities to boost the number of small businesses involved with federal research and development (R&D) projects.

The grants, which can be used for outreach and training, will heighten awareness of two federal technology-based programs in regions where small business participation is low. The SBA administers both programs in cooperation with 10 other federal agencies with large R&D budgets. The deadline for applying is April 30.

“The SBA expects to open wide the doors of opportunity for everyone, regardless of location,” said SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez. **“There are small technology businesses across the country that are very creative, extremely motivated and should be involved in federal research and development.**

“The SBA administers two of the most highly regarded small business R&D programs the government offers. Many companies simply aren’t sufficiently aware that these programs exist. This is an aggressive outreach initiative designed specifically for those firms.”

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The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs currently account for more than \$1 billion in federal R&D funding. The SBIR program is offered only to small businesses, while the STTR program promotes collaboration between small businesses and non-profit research institutions.

The programs often result in what some consider among the highest quality government research available. Many times, the innovations flowing from these programs find their way into the commercial market, giving the general public access to a range of new products and services.

The 25 locations eligible for this outreach funding qualified because the value of SBIR and STTR contracts awarded in each area during fiscal year 1995 was relatively low -- less than \$5 million. The targeted states include: Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico also qualify.

The grants will be awarded on a competitive basis with the SBA supplying two dollars for each dollar contributed by the state or local jurisdiction. The maximum federal contribution for each grant will be \$100,000.

For more information on the grant program, please call 202-401-6365. For information on SBIR and STTR programs and other services for small technology firms, visit SBA's Office of Technology web site at <http://www.sba.gov/SBIR>.

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